

BOROUGH OF SALTASH

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# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1938.

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HUGH G. ROBINSON, M.B., Ch.B.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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# BOROUGH OF SALTASH

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the year 1938.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1938.

### SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, in acres	...	...	...	6257
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-1938)				6736
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...		2227
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£45804
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...		£186

The Borough consists of a Residential Area, with Saltash, St. Stephens and Burraton, as a built-up area, and an Agricultural Area, consisting of the outer part of St. Stephens, with the villages of Trematon, Trehan and Carkeel. There are two Quarries which provide employment for a number of men, and in Saltash there is a Creamery which employs several people. There are several retired Service people resident in the Borough and a number of employees of the Government Establishments at Bull Point and the Dockyard live here.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—This shows a slight decrease on the average.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Corrected by inward and outward Transfer.

BIRTHS.			
LIVE BIRTHS :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	86	43	43
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	—	—	—
	91	46	45
STILL BIRTHS :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	1	...	1
Live Births :	Rate per 1,000 estimated population		13.5
Still Births :	Rate per 1,000 live and still births		10.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...		15.1

DEATHS.			
Total number corrected by Transfer	...		94
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			13.9
Adjusted Death Rate	do.	do.	10.9
Death Rate for England and Wales	...		11.6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...		None

Deaths.—Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still)			
			Births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	None
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	None

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	98.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	93.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200
Death Rate of Infants for England and Wales	53

TABLE SHOWING THE CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE INCIDENCE.

Disease	M.	F.	Un. 1	1-2	2-3	3-5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	65- 75	75 & over
Measles .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	1	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza .....	2		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Cancer .....	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	3
Diabetes .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		...
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Heart Disease .....	20	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	16	9
Other Circulatory .....	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Bronchitis .....	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peptic Ulcer .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea (under 2) .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Liver .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other Digestive .....	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility .....	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senility .....	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other Defined Diseases .....	5	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	4
	46	47	9	...	...	1	3	...	2	3	2	1	16	31	25

This table shows only 93 Deaths and varies slightly from that received from the Registrar General, but is compiled from actual returns received locally.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1.—Public Health Officers.

- (a) H. G. Robinson; M.B., Ch.B., Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
- (b) F. J. Harris, M.I.M. and C.E., F.I.A.A., C.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector and Borough Surveyor.

2.—There are no changes or developments in the Laboratory facilities, Ambulance arrangements, or Nursing Services, which latter are provided by the District Nursing Association, affiliated to the County Association.

3.—Maternity and Child Welfare is undertaken by the County Council, as also the supervision of Nursing Homes.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1.—(1) Water.

No new source of supply subsequent to the placing of the 9in. steel main across the Royal Albert Bridge, which gives an abundant supply. Negotiations are in progress with the Admiralty for the supply of water for the proposed Naval Establishment at Wearde and the South-East Cornwall Water Board has been approached with regard to a supply, from their boundary near Hatt, by meter and through a 4in. main to be laid by this Authority, to be used in case of emergency. New 3in. and 4in. mains have been laid in connection with new building estates.

Samples of water have been taken from the Plymouth supply and the Adit low-level supply and found satisfactory.

#### (2) Drainage and Sewerage.

No new main sewers have been laid, but the following sewers and drains were laid on estates and in connection with new houses : 1,348 feet of 6in., and 1,760 feet of 4in.

The Sewage Works at Forder and Salt Mill continue to work satisfactorily.

#### 2.—Rivers and Streams.

Some crude milk wastes were being discharged into the River Tamar, but this was promptly stopped on request.

3.—(1) All houses within the built-up areas have water carriage system except in isolated cases, where no sewer is available and these are connected to a septic tank or use the Elson Chemical Closet.

#### (2)—Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection as before by motor vehicle, with adjustable covers. The collection is generally twice a week and in the more densely populated part three times a week, and in the rural area weekly, fortnightly or monthly as required.

#### (3)—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Water Supply and Cisterns, etc.	...	...	120
W.C.s and Drains	...	...	186
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	69
Infectious Diseases	...	...	14
Bakehouses, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	48
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	26
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	38
Slaughter Houses (2 in number)	...	...	76
			<hr/> 577 <hr/>

Defects found and remedied after formal notice.—

Refuse Bins	...	...	...	29
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	5
Defective W.C.s and Fittings	...	...	...	48
Defective Drains, Gullies, etc.	...	...	...	22
Dampness, Leaks and Ventilation	...	...	...	16
Cowsheds and Dairies : paving and ventilation	...	...	...	7
Various Defects	...	...	...	46
				<hr/> 173 <hr/>

#### (4) Shops and Offices.

The Register of Factories and Workshops has been revised. There are 13 Factories, 19 Workshops and 53 workplaces. Thirty-two inspections were made and except for minor alterations as regards ventilation and washing facilities, which were attended to by the owners, no action has been necessary.

#### (5) Camping Sites.

- (a) The number used in the District : One at Wearde, which is run by the Plymouth Education Authority, and one at Notter.
- (b) The number in respect of which the local Authority issued licences : One.
- (c) 58.

#### (6) Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary.

#### (7) Swimming Baths and Pools.

One sea water bath, which did not have such a successful season owing to the wet summer.

The water is replenished at practically every tide and no complaints were received as to the purity of the water. During the few days when a large number of people used the bath, chlorus was successfully employed.

(8) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

- (1)—None.
- (2)—None. Xaldicyde used if necessary.
- (3)—None.
- (4)—By Local Authority.
- (5)—None.

**Schools.—**

These have been periodically visited and the Sanitary conditions found satisfactory, except in the case of one school in the Rural area, where the Education Authority have been asked to improve the conditions of sewage disposal. This will shortly be dealt with.

**SECTION D.**  
**SECTION D.—HOUSING.**

The Council's new Housing Estate at Warfelton consisting of 72 houses and flats, is completed and occupied.

Plans were approved for the following Buildings by Private Enterprise: Houses, 5; Bungalows, 19; Garages, 19; Additions to existing buildings, 18.

**1.—Inspection of Houses during the Year.**

1—(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Act .....	186
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .....	241
2.(a) Number (included under sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	Nil
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .....	Nil
3.—Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation ...	Nil
4.—Number (exclusive to those referred to in the preeeding paragraph) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	Nil

**2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	27
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**3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.**

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	Nil
(2) Number rendered fit after service of formal notice .....	Nil
(a) By Owners .....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	Nil
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number in respect of which informal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	49
(2) Number in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices .....	Nil
(a) By Owners .....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	Nil
(2) Number demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement of room having been rendered fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	Nil
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein .....	Nil
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	Nil
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	Nil
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	3
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	17
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding :        3 as above, and immediately abated after Informal Notice.	
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it advisable to report.....	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are 8 certified Milk Traders.

There are 31 producers of milk in the District, 15 producer-retailers and 6 retailers only. These have been regularly inspected and suggested alterations to paving and ventilation attended to. The County Council took samples of milk which, except in one case, were found satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The Slaughter Houses and the Butchers' Shops have been regularly inspected. Two defective hams were surrendered, and potatoes and unfit fruit were dealt with. There are 12 Ice Cream vendors and no trouble was experienced here.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) .....	388	...	30	1508	639
Number inspected .....	107	...	2	221	141
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 in 600
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 in 300

(c)—Adulteration.—

No action necessary.

(d)—Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

No action taken.

(e)—Nutrition.—

No action was done by the Local Authority, but a Milk Week was held organised by the Nation Milk Publicity Council.

(f)—There are no Oyster Beds here now. Plymouth City Council have taken action under the Shell Fish Regulations, 1934, and have forbidden the taking of Shell Fish from the waters here over which they have jurisdiction.



(8) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

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(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
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(2) Number in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices .....	Nil
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(c)—Adulteration.—

No action necessary.

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No action taken.

(e)—Nutrition.—

No action was done by the Local Authority, but a Milk Week was held organised by the Nation Milk Publicity Council.

(f)—There are no Oyster Beds here now. Plymouth City Council have taken action under the Shell Fish Regulations, 1934, and have forbidden the taking of Shell Fish from the waters here over which they have jurisdiction.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year there were 11 cases of a mild type of Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Erysipelas and 13 cases of Pneumonia, mostly of an Influenzal nature, 2 severe cases proving fatal. Five of the Scarlet Fever cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Plymouth. Thirteen premises were disinfected.

No action has been taken as regards Diphtheria Immunisation.

TABLE SHEWING AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Disease.</i>	Total	AGES								
		3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and over
Pneumonia .....	13	1	3	...	4	...	3	...	2	...
Scarlet Fever .....	11	3	4	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas .....	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...

Prevention of Blindness.

No action taken.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was necessary relating to persons employed in the Milk Trade nor as regards compulsory Removal to Hospital.

Six new cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs were reported : 2 of these died and 2 left the district.

TABLE SHEWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age Period :	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
20—25 ... ..	1	3	...	...	2	...	...	...
25—35 ... ..	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45—55 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

At the end of the year there were 8 Respiratory and 11 Non-Respiratory cases on the Register.

In conclusion I should like to compliment your Sanitary Inspector on his excellent report on Sanitary matters, which is embodied in this Report, and to express my appreciation of the assistance I have had during the year from Mr. Harris and his staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. G. ROBINSON.



